

# SUPPLEMENT TO THE 'EYANPAHA.'

NOVEMBER,

1896.

FT. TOTTEN,  
SISTERS' SCHOOL, NOV. 1896.

We have presently 115 children in the school, a large number of whom are Sioux of this reservation, the others are Chippewas from different places. At the Fort School there are about 200 pupils, all Catholics with few exceptions. Quite a number of the larger girls in that school have come from White Earth and are former pupils of the Benedictine Sisters at St. John, Minn., others are from Morris, Minn. The Sisters in charge of those schools having given them up for want of sufficient support by the Government. We must say, to the credit of those young girls, left, as it were to themselves they are very earnest in their efforts to practice their religion and remain faithful to their holy Faith. When no other opportunity offers itself they avail themselves of the hour of High Mass on Sundays, to approach the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist and thus remain fasting till noon. May God strengthen them to continue.

We have at the Sisters' School here a lot of good girls from the age of four up to 17 and of little boys from three years up to 12. Several of our children are learning music which is a great encouragement for them, and will afterwards be of great service to the Church, by being able to accompany the Mass and hymns which some of the old pupils are now doing. Our children in general show good will, aptitude in learning the different branches of study and also house-work so necessary for them. They vie with each other to see who will have the greatest number of merits at the end of each month, in order to have their names put on the "Roll of Honor," and be able to buy some little recompense.

The weather is very cold here, it is already real winter, which makes the children look forward with anxious but joyful hearts to the coming of good old "Santa Claus." As Emeran says "This weather is hastening the season of Christmas and New Year." However the boys have not

yet all they desire as they are deprived of their favorite amusement, skating on account of the deep snow there is no means of getting around.

I have now given you some items about our school. Next time, it will be your turn to tell us something about your schools and I know you have many interesting news to give us, but, it is very seldom we receive any letters from the school children. Why is this? We are always glad to hear from you and your letters never visit the waste basket before they are in full print.

We publish one to-day from St. Francis Mission, Rose Bud Agency, for which we are very grateful.

{ St. Francis' Mission,  
Rosebud Agency, S. Dak.  
Oct. 23, 1896.

Dear Rev. Father Jerome:—

Although we do not write often to the "Eyanpaha," we are always very much interested in it at St. Francis Mission. Ever since we returned from our vacation, our minds and hands have been kept busy. The new building, containing a large dormitory, recreation hall, kitchen and class-room, was about finished when we returned to school, so there was a great deal of moving to be done. Then, we had to practice for a little entertainment to be given in honor of Rev. Mother Cecilia, who came here on a visit from Buffalo, and Rev. Father Superior's name's day, which comes on the 16th of October, which was celebrated also. Now, Father, don't you think we have been diligent? Well, after having a pleasant vacation of two months we were very glad to come back to school. We enjoyed ourselves very much during vacation though in different ways. Some of the girls liked to go riding on horseback, others visiting their companions and others again loved to spend their time in reading. One girl said that, on the 5th of July, she read from 7 o'clock in the morning till 5 o'clock in the evening. Sister said that was a little too much. Ellen Prue tells us how she celebrated the 4th of July at her cousin's house. She says: "In the evening we shot off some firecrackers, then Elmer got the dish-pan, went on the top of the house and began to beat it with all his might, while Eva played the accordion and I pounded the frying

pan. Ida sat there laughing heartily, as we could see but could not hear her, because we were making such a noise."

Now, we will tell you about the good time we had this week. Very Rev. Cassidy from O'neil, was here two days ago and also visited our school. He asked ever so many questions, but we could not answer them all. "Have you received the sacrament of Holy Orders?" one girl was asked. "Can you baptize a person with milk?" questioned Father Cassidy another girl, etc. Why, we were kept laughing for about 15 minutes without stopping. In the evening, as the bright silvery moon shone above our heads, we gathered around Father Cassidy, who asked us whether we knew what the weight of the moon is. Oh! dear! we never heard of such a thing before, so we could make no answer. Father Cassidy explained it to us by relating a story, which, if you do not object, we will also recount to you. It is as follows: A monk who wanted to build a monastery, but had no money, went to a lord and told him of his intention. "I will give you half of my estate," said the lord, "if you answer the following three questions: 'What am I worth?' 'What is the weight of the moon?' 'What am I thinking of?'" Those were hard nuts to crack, so the lord allowed several days for reflection. On his way home the monk met an Irishman, who asked him why he looked so sad. After the monk told his story, the Irishman said: "Those are easy questions, and if you will lend me your habit I will go to the lord and answer them for you." When the time came, the Irishman went to the lord, who said to him: "Well, Father, can you answer my questions?" "I think I can," replied the Irishman. "Your first question was: 'What am I worth?'" The answer is: you are worth 29 pieces of silver.

"Why?" put in the lord. "Because," said the Irishman, "our Lord was sold for 30 pieces of silver, and you are one piece less." That was right. In your second question," continued the Irishman, "you want to know what the weight of the moon is. The weight of the moon is 1 cwt., because there are 4 quarters in the moon, and 4 quarters in a cwt." That was correct, too. Lastly, said the Irishman: "you want me to tell you what you are thinking of. You are thinking you have that monk before

you, but you have not. It is an Irishman standing here." That was correct also, and the lord gave half of his estate to build a monastery.

Next month the boys will write to the "Eyanpaha." Perhaps they can tell you about our new Bishop's visit to St. Francis Mission, that is, if he comes before that time. He wrote lately, that, if possible, he would come in November. We are all anxious to see him.

Our good Bishop Marty is now in eternity, and, as we hope, enjoying everlasting happiness. Last May Sr. M. Renata died here. She was sent to Dakota for her health, but after being here only about two months, we had to lay her in our little graveyard. It was God's holy will that she should not live any longer, so she went to Him. She was the first Sister that died here. The coming month reminds us again to remember in our prayers, those that have gone before us.

Good bye. Please, Father, remember in your prayers, the

GIRLS OF ST. FRANCIS MISSION.

## Bishop Marty's Heroism.

On the Sunday preceding Bishop Marty's departure from this world a class of children had been summoned for confirmation. The ceremony had been arranged to take place in a church nine miles distant from St. Cloud and accessible only by the country roads. The Bishop was urged and begged not to subject himself to the inclemency of the weather and the rigorous ride over the road. But persisting that the faithful must not be disappointed, he firmly refused to postpone the ceremony.

He was a dying man at the time; yet he gathered all his physical resources for one more work for God's glory, and he administered the Sacrament. During the ceremony the strength of his arms deserted him and it became necessary for an attendant priest to support it, whilst the saintly minister signed the foreheads of the children with the holy chrism and with the sign of the cross. He had grown so enfeebled that he had to be carried from the church to the rectory. That was his last episcopal function, and a few days after he died the death of a martyr.



## SAW A VISION OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

## A Methodist Farmer Describes the Vision That Surprised Him When He Was Fishing.

Moses Depue, one of the wealthiest and most staid tillers of the soil of Paha-quarry Township, Belvidere, N. J., had an experience on Thursday of last week that caused his hair to turn white. Mr. Depue is a deacon in the Methodist Church, superintendent of local Sunday-school, and comes from a good, old Quaker family, his father having been a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. He has been treasurer of the township and member of the County Board of Freeholders.

He is a veteran fisherman, and went out early in the day on the Delaware River, to follow his accustomed habits. The morning was hazy and exceedingly hot, and as the old gentleman was in the act of hauling in a fine bass he heard a peculiar noise up the River. His eyes were at once riveted on a scene that he will never forget. The following is his version of the scene:

"A huge white cloud arose apparently out of the water, from which there emerged the strains of sweet music. It floated upward several hundred feet, and seemed to be ablaze with light. I watched it with intense interest, and seemed to be spellbound."

"A very strange feeling came over me, and the very air seemed charged with heavenly fragrance. Its strange shape form of cross, riveted me to my seat. As the cloud reached the height of about fifty feet it parted in the middle, and there, in the centre, was the form of a beautiful woman.

"Her face was radiant with a strange light. Her beautiful golden hair fell in heavy rolls over her shoulders, and a shining crown of silver adorned her brow. The figure, which was of natural size, was robed in a garment of white which reached to her feet. As the apparition arose and floated over the Delaware I heard sweet songs and music from overhead.

"The figure bore a striking resemblance to portraits of the Virgin Mary, and was so dazzling in its brightness that I placed my hands before my eyes."

When he recovered from his astonishment the vision had vanished, but the impression was so deep on his mind that it will never be obliterated. He hurried home, and his excited condition alarmed his friends. He told the story to his family, and during the day hundreds of

friends, and neighbors called at his home to learn the particulars of the remarkable vision.

The old gentleman is not superstitious, nor are his friends, but they cannot help regarding the apparition as a meaning that they cannot as yet fathom. The whole neighborhood is excited over the event.

## KEEP STRAIGHT AHEAD.

Pay no attention to slanderers and gossip mongers. Keep straight on in your course, and let the back-biting die the death of neglect. What is the use of lying awake at nights, brooding over the remark of some false friend, that runs through your brain like lightning.

What is the use of getting into a worry and fret over gossip that has been set afloat to your disadvantage by some meddlesome busy body who has more time than character? The things cannot possibly injure you unless you take notice of them, and in combatting them give standing and character. If what is said about is true, set yourself right; if it is false, let it go for what it will fetch. If a bee sting you would you go to the hive to destroy it? Would not a thousand come upon you? It is wisdom to say little respecting the injuries you have received. We are generally losers in the end, if we stop to refute all the back-biting and gossiping we may hear by the way. They are annoying, it is true, but not dangerous, so long as we do not stop to expostulate and scold. Our characters are formed and sustained by ourselves, by our own actions and purposes, and not by others. Let us always bear in mind that "calumniators may usually be trusted to time and the slow but steady justice of public opinion."

## THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR IN PARTICULAR.

## I. CHRISTMASTIDE.

## 1. What is the meaning of Christmastide?

During Christmastide the mysteries of the Incarnation and the birth and childhood of Jesus are presented for our contemplation, as preparatory to our divine redemption.

## 2. What portion of the ecclesiastical year does Christmastide comprise?

It comprises: 1. Advent, as the anticipation of the feast; 2. Christmas Day, or the great feast itself; 3. The days between Christmas Day and Candlemas Day, as it were in echo or sequence of the great celebration.

## I. THE ANTICIPATION.

## 3. What is the meaning of Advent?

The season of Advent, embracing the four weeks preceding Christmas Day, represents the four thousand years during which mankind was compelled to await the advent, or coming, of the Redeemer.

## 4. What is the object of Advent?

It should enkindle within us a desire for the grace of the Redeemer, and serve as a time of humble and penitential preparation for the feast of his birth.

## 5. How does the Advent season serve to awaken our desire for the Redeemer?

By the celebration of the Rorate Mass, at the break of day, signifying the gloom of the long period during which mankind had to wait for the rising Sun of justice.

This is called the Rorate Mass because its Introit opens with the words: "Rorate cœli desuper, et nubes pluant justum"—Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just; let the earth be opened, and bud forth a Saviour." (Isaias xlv. 8.)

## 6. What means are used by the Church to incite us to penance and humility?

The wearing of violet vestments; the omission of all hymns of joy, for example the Gloria in Excelsis; and especially the study of the Sunday Epistles and Gospels, which teach and urge penance and reformation in our lives.

## 7. What feast comes in Advent?

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on which the Church commemorates the truth that Mary, by special divine decree, and by signal favor obtained through the merits of Jesus Christ, from the moment of her conception was preserved from the stain of original sin, and was full of grace, in order that she might be worthy to become the mother of the Son of God.

The Immaculate Conception is a festival of the first class, with an octave, and is a day of obligation. It is the patronal feast of the United States.

## 8. What fast-days come in Advent?

1. The three Ember-days of winter, in the week following the third Sunday of Advent; and
2. Christmas Eve, as the immediate preparatory fast for the feast.

## 2. CHRISTMAS DAY.

## 9. When is Christmas Day celebrated?

Christmas Day, the commemoration of the birth of Our Saviour, falls always on the 25th day of December.

## 10. Why is it called the Blessed Night?

Because we celebrate on the night that was blessed and sanctified by the birth of Jesus.

## 11. Why is it called Christmas?

Because on that day the Church celebrates the Masses specially commemorating the birth of Christ.

## 12. How does the Church celebrate this grand and gracious festival?

By the celebration on that day of three Masses: the first at midnight, indicating the hour of Christ's birth: the Angels' Mass, at the break of day; and the Shepherds' Mass, in the full light of the sun.

## 13. Of what are we reminded by these three Masses?

1. Of the bodily birth of Jesus from the Virgin Mary;
2. Of His spiritual birth in the hearts of men; and
3. Of His eternal procession from the bosom of the eternal Father.

It is usual at Christmas time to represent the birth of the infant Saviour by means of the so-called "crib of Bethlehem." In 1226 St. Francis Assisi set up the first of these cribs, for the purpose of increasing in the hearts of the spectators renewed love for the newborn Saviour.

The Christmas tree represents Jesus as a fair and fruitful tree that was to come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse; that is, as the Son of David (Isaias xi. 1.) and Who through His truth and grace of redemption became the light and salvation of the world. Of this light to the world, and of these fruits of salvation, we are reminded by the tapers and fruits on the Christmas tree, as well as by the presents that are exchanged.